

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: EA:RHMILLER:AOA

APPROVED BY: EA:RHMILLER

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P 252049Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

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WELLINGTON FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB ONLY

FOLLOWING REPAT KUALA LUMPUR 1013 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK  
JAKARTA MANILA SINGAPORE TOKYO CINCPAC 24 FEB 76.

QUOTE

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR ASEAN MY RP

SUBJ: MALAYSIA, THE PHILIPPINES, AND THE TREATY OF AMITY AND  
FRIENDSHIP

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 975 (DTG 230858Z FEB 76)

1. SUMMARY. MALAYSIAN REPORTING ON ASEAN SUMMIT TALKS  
NOW DEFINITELY UPBEAT AND DEVOID OF ANTI-FILIPINO OVER-  
TONES THAT HAD CHARACTERIZED EARLIER COVERAGE OF EVENTS  
BY SELF-STYLED GOM PUBLICIST/PROPAGANDIST NOORDIN SOPIEE.  
ACCORDING LOCAL PRESS, NO MAJOR ROADBLOCKS FORESEEN TO  
ASEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT SIGNING THREE MAJOR DOCUMENTS,  
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INCLUDING TREATY OF AMITY AND FRIENDSHIP. MALAYSIAN

OFFICIAL INDICATES COMPROMISE IN RESOLVING FILIPINO/MALAYSIAN DEADLOCK OVER CLARIFICATIONS OF ARBITRATION CLAUSE IN LATTER DOCUMENT REFLECTS MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY ACCOMMODATION THAT WILL BENEFIT ASEAN AS WHOLE. END SUMMARY.

2. "NEW STRAITS TIMES" (NST) CONTINUES PROMINENT PLACEMENT OF REPORTS FROM BALI ON ASEAN SUMMIT NEGOTIATIONS BY INFLUENTIAL EDITORIAL WRITER NOORDIN SOPIEE. ACCORDING TO SOPIEE, HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WILL SIGN THREE DOCUMENTS FEB 24; "THE TREATY OF AMITY AND CO-OPERATION," THE "DECLARATION OF ASEAN CONCORD" AND AN AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT.

3. NST FEB 24 FRONTPAGED REPORT CO-AUTHORED BY SOPIEE AND DAHARI ALI CITING "BREAKTHROUGHS" AS OF FEB 23 IN VARIOUS AREAS OF DELIVERATIONS, INCLUDING STATEMENTS FROM "RELIABLE SOURCES" TO EFFECT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AGREED ASEAN DECLARATION WOULD BE CALLED "THE DECLARATION OF ASEAN CONCORD," WHICH WAS DESCRIBED AS A "NON-SUBSTANTIVE CONCESSION" TO THE PHILIPPINES. DECLARATION REPORTEDLY WOULD INCLUDE CLAUSE ON RENUNCIATION OF USE OF FORCE IN INTRA-ASEAN DISPUTES, WHICH WRITERS TERMED AS "REGARDED BY SOME AS A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS AN ASEAN NON-AGGRESSION PACT." IT ALSO WOULD SPECIFY THAT FUTURE SUMMITS WOULD BE CONVENED WHEN A NEED ARISES RATHER THAN ON A REGULAR BASIS. DRAFT DECLARATION AGREED TO BY FOREIGN MINISTERS REPORTEDLY CALLS FOR SETTLEMENT OF ALL DISPUTES AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AND NOTES AGREEMENT THAT "CONSTITUTION AND MACHINERY OF ASEAN WOULD BE RE-EXAMINED TO STRENGTHEN THEM". FINALLY, DECLARATION SUPPOSEDLY EXPRESSES A JOINT COMMITMENT TO CO-OPERATION IN INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION AND CALLS FOR GREATER JOINT EFFORTS TO FIGHT DRUG TRAFFICKING. IT WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, ENVISAGE ANY DEFENSE OR SECURITY ARRANGEMENT UNDER ASEAN AEGIS.

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4. SAME ARTICLE REPORTED MEETING OF ECONOMIC MINISTERS IN KUALA LUMPUR MARCH 8-9 WILL DISCUSS "THE PROJECT FOR INDUSTRIAL COMPLEMENTATION (SIC)," AS WELL AS FINANCIAL CO-OPERATION, JOINT COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS AND BUFFER STOCK SCHEMES ON SUCH RAW MATERIALS AS RUBBER, SISAL, ETC.

5. SEPARATE BACKPAGED REPORT BY SUPIEE DATELINED RALI FEB 23 DESCRIBED HOW IMPASSE BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND PHILIPPINES OVER ARBITRATION CLAUSE OF TREATY OF AMITY AND FRIENDSHIP WAS RESOLVED WHEN SINGAPORE INTRODUCED A FORMULA BOTH SIDES FOUND FULLY ACCEPTABLE. SOPIEE COMMENTED THAT "IT IS EASY TO ARGUE FROM THE AIR OF ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT HAS INFECTED THE MALAYSIAN CAMP THAT MALAYSIA HAS INNER QUOTE WON END INNER QUOTE," BUT CITED COMMENTS OF UNIDENTIFIED MALAYSIAN OFFICIAL THAT "WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN SCORING POINTS. THIS IS NOT A GAME. WE HAVEN'T WON, ASEAN HAS WON. WE HAVE REACHED AN AMICABLE SETTLEMENT ON A BASIS WHICH MAKES EVERYBODY HAPPY."

6. COMMENT: SOPIEE CLEARLY IS BACK-PEDALING AND HIS REPORTS ARE NOW MORE POSITIVE IN TONE AND DEVOTD OF ANTI-FILIPINO SLANT THAT HAD CHARACTERIZED EARLIER REPORTING/COMMENTARY. THIS SUGGESTS NOT ONLY THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN TALKS ON SMOOTHING OVER CONTENTIOUS ISSUES, BUT THAT PROBABLY SOMEONE ON GOM SIDE HAS OTTEN WORD TO SOPIEE THATTENOR OF REPORTING NOW SHOULD REFLECT "SWEETNESS AND LIGHT" AND PERVERSIVENESS OF "SPIRIT OF ASEAN". UNDERHILL UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARBITRATION, TREATY RATIFICATION, AMITY, SUMMIT MEETINGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 FEB 1976  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE045397  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** EA:RHMILLER:AOA  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ORIGIN EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 KUALA LUMPUR 975  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 JAN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 JAN 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <06 JUL 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MALAYSIA, THE PHILIPPINES, AND THE TREATY OF AMITY AND FRIENDSHIP  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ACOM, MY, RP, ASEAN  
**To:** WELLINGTON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006